

REMARKS

(1) Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-24 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 6, 10, 16 and 18 have been amended and claims 6-9 and 19-22 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 4 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 23 and 24 have been added.

The amendment in this response rewrites the allowable but objected claims into independent form, thus the amendment should be entered.

(2) The Limited Recognition of the representative was attached to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 22, 2004. Also, the Limited Recognition was additionally sent by facsimile on January 19, 2005, and also, it is attached herewith. Please consider the IDS documents filed on October 22, 2004.

(3) Claims 10-13, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/23534. Also, claims 1-3, 10-13 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/23534 in view of Gruber et al., still further in view of Tomono et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4 and claims 10 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 14, except for

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deleting the process limitations. The scope of claims 4 and 14 without the process limitations was not rejected by the cited references in the previous Office Action dated July 2, 2003.

Claim 23 has been added, whose scope corresponds to claim 1 incorporating allowable claim 5, without the process limitation. The scope of claim 5 without the process limitation was not rejected by the cited references in the previous Office Action dated July 2, 2003.

Claim 24 has been added, whose scope corresponds to claim 10 incorporating allowable claim 15, without the process limitation. The scope of claim 15 without the process limitation was not rejected by the cited references in the previous Office Action dated July 2, 2003.

Thus, the amendment in this Response makes the rejection moot.

(4) In view of the above, claims 1-3, 5, 10-13, 15-18, and 23 and 24, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

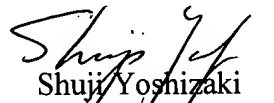
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Limited Recognition

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